

V. REMARKS

Claim 1 is objected to because of an informality. The claim is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Muir et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0192090). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1:

In comparison with the fourth wherein clause of claim 1, Muir appears to disclose the equivalent of "window frame display areas", which is found in "device formed by incorporating constituent elements other than symbol carrying arrangement 16". To be more specific, the equivalent is a frame portion of "shutter mechanism 76 formed of "NCAP liquid crystals" other than "zones 78" and a frame portion of "monitor housing 60" other than plural apertures or openings 64 formed so as to correspond to "reel18".

It is to be noted that both the frame portion of "shutter mechanism 76" and that of "monitor housing 60" only work as frame and display modes are never changed at the respective frame portions.

Accordingly, Muir does not disclose the contents of the fourth wherein clause which is "when display mode of the window frame display area is changed, the illumination device is adapted not to illuminate the symbol corresponding to the symbol display area and a light transmittance rate of the symbol display area is made low".

In this regard, the Examiner refers to the paragraphs [0018] through [0027] of Muir as the grounds of the disclosure. However, the related paragraphs merely describe that "The multi-layered structure may include an illuminating layer

operatively arranged relative to the monitor to illuminate the monitor". Therefore, the recitation of those paragraphs in Muir is not reasonable.

In conclusion, Muir does not at all disclose or suggest the mechanism described in the fourth wherein clause of claim 1.

Claim 6:

In comparison with the fourth wherein clause in claim 6, Muir appears to disclose the equivalent of "window frame display areas", which is found in "device formed by incorporating constituent elements other than symbol carrying arrangement 16". To be more specific, the equivalent is a frame portion of "shutter mechanism 76 formed of "NCAP liquid crystals" other than "zones 78" and a frame portion of "monitor housing 60" other than plural apertures or openings 64 formed so as to correspond to "reel 18".

It is to be noted that both the frame portion of "shutter mechanism 76" and that of "monitor housing 60" only work as frame and display modes are never changed at the respective frame portions. That is to say, it is not possible for Muir to have "first display mode" and "second display mode" which differs from "first display mode".

Accordingly, the Examiner's assertion that Muir discloses the contents of the fourth wherein clause is incorrect.

In comparison with the fifth wherein clause, Muir appears to disclose that both the frame portion of "shutter mechanism 76" and that of "monitor housing 60" only work as frame and display modes are never changed at the respective frame portions. Therefore, Muir does not disclose or teach the mechanism directed to the fifth wherein clause which is "the at least one window frame area changes from the first display mode to the second display mode when the beneficial state generating device generates the beneficial state for the player".

In this regard, the Examiner refers to Figs. 6, 7 and related descriptions thereof so as to argue that Muir teaches that window frame display area changes from the first display mode to the second display mode when the beneficial state generating device generates the beneficial state for the player. However, since it is impossible for the slot machine of Muir to change "display mode" of "window frame display area", the Examiner's assertion is not reasonable.

Furthermore, since it is impossible for the slot machine of Muir to change "display mode" of "window frame display area", it is considered that Muir does not at all disclose or teach such mechanism of "the first display mode depicted only as a frame structure and the second display mode being a moving image superimposed on and moving along the frame structure".

Accordingly, the Examiner's assertion that Muir discloses the contents of the fifth wherein clause is incorrect.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claims 1 and 6 as discussed above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 6 are allowable over the applied art.

Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 8-13 also include features not shown in the applied art. For instance, independent claims 8 and 12 recite the second display device includes an effect display area, at least one window frame area surrounded by the effect display area and at least one symbol display area surrounded by the at least one window frame area and the at least one symbol display area corresponding to the at least one symbol display part through which the symbols displayed on the first

display device are transmittably displayed.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

Furthermore, for any instances in which the Examiner took Official Notice in the Office Action, Applicants expressly do not acquiesce to the taking of Official Notice, and respectfully request that the Examiner provide an affidavit to support the Official Notice taken in the next Office Action, as required by 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2) and MPEP § 2144.03.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

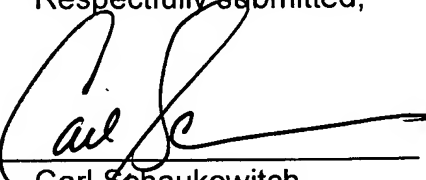
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same,

the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 24, 2007

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (one month)

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